

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were allowed, claims 9, 11, and 19 were objected to for typographical errors, and claims 19-22 were rejected. By this Response, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 11, and has cancelled claims 19-22 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-18 will be pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that these pending claims are allowable.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action, FIG. 4 was objected to because “reference number ‘84’ should be changed to ‘98’ (tapered and surface) in the top three collets of Figure 4.” *See* Office Action mailed July 26, 2005, p. 2. By this Response, Applicant has corrected the drawings to alleviate the Examiner’s concerns. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to FIG. 4.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract for the “use of the legal term ‘comprises’.” Office Action mailed July 26, 2005. By this Response, Applicant has replaced the term “comprises” with the term “includes” in the Abstract. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the Abstract.

Additionally, the Examiner objected to informalities regarding the Amendments to the Specification presented in the Preliminary Amendment of October 4, 2004. *See id.* at p. 3. By this Response, Applicant resubmits the Amendments to the Specification to correlate with the page and line numbers suggested by the Examiner. In view of these corrections, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 9, 11, and 19 for various informalities. By this Response, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 11 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Additionally, Applicant notes that claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice by this Response and, as such, is no longer germane to the present discussion. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim objections.

Rejections Under Section 102


In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Hill reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,543,461; hereinafter "Hill"). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 19-22 under Section 102(b) as anticipated by the New et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,102; hereinafter "New"). Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections. Nonetheless, Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice to advance prosecution of the present patent application to allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a discussion regarding claims 19-22 is no longer germane to the present patent application. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present patent application.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 26, 2005



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

With this Response, Applicants have amended FIG. 4. Specifically, Applicants have relabeled element "84" as element "98". These changes are reflected in the Replacement Sheet and the Annotated Sheet provided herewith.

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FIG. 3

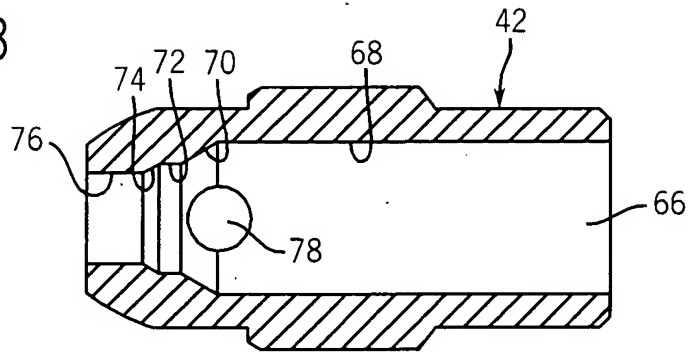


FIG. 4

